

## **LOUISIANA SEED COMMISSION MEETING PROCEEDINGS**

**April 27, 2011**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry Building  
LDAF Veterans Memorial Auditorium  
5825 Florida Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806**

### **SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS**

The following members and/or designees were sworn in before the meeting by staff legal counsel, Marvin Montgomery: Mr. Michael Hensgens, designee for the President of the LAIA, Dr. John Russin, interim Director of the LA Ag Experiment Station, Mr. Bill Hopkins, President of the LAIA and Dr. Ron Harrell, designee for the President of the LA Farm Bureau Association.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:13 a.m. by Mr. Fred Bass, Confidential Assistant to Commissioner Mike Strain.

### **ROLL CALL**

The roll was called by Mrs. Tina Ficklin.

The following members or their Designees were present: Mr. Fred Bass, Designee for Commissioner Mike Strain; Dr. Johnny Saichuk, Designee for Dr. Paul Coreil, representing the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service; Dr. John Russin, representing Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station; Mr. Michael Hensgens, Designee for Mr. Bill Hopkins, representing the Louisiana Ag. Industries Association; and Dr. Ron Harrell, Designee for Mr. Ronnie Anderson, representing the Louisiana Farm Bureau Association. All Members or their Designees were present.

Others Present: Todd Parker, Assistant Commissioner of AES; Kevin Wofford, LDAF Seed Programs; Lester Cannon, LDAF Seed Programs; Tina Ficklin, LDAF Seed Programs and guests; Ms. Stephanie Pizzoferrato of Scotts Miracle Gro Company, Mr. Doug Alderman of Scotts Miracle Gro Company, Mr. Pat Miller of American Seed Trade Association, Dr. Carrie Knott and Dr. Mike Materne of LSU Ag Center, Mr. Bill Hopkins of LAIA and Mr. Travis Walker.

A quorum was declared.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**Motion:** Mr. Michael Hensgens made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2010 Louisiana Seed Commission Meeting. Dr. John Russin seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

### **NO PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Update on the Resolution for Adoption of Regulations for Seed Testing and Sampling Fee Increases**

At the October 8, 2010 meeting, a motion was made to authorize a Notice-of-Intent to allow a 25% increase in fees for certain testing and sampling services, as well as the addition of several new service fees. Since there were no substantive changes or oppositions from oversight committees, the Notice-of-Intent passed by resolution without reconsideration by the members. No further action is required. The effective date of the regulation is May 20, 2011.

### **Coated Seed Labeling Requirements**

Ms. Stephanie Pizzoferrato from The Scotts Miracle Gro Company addressed the Commission to propose wording changes to the statute §121 Labeling of Seed. For more clarity to the regulation and following the guidelines of the Federal Trade Commission Truth in Labeling Law, it was proposed that section H of the current regulations read:

- H. Each package of coated seed shall have the following additional information on the front of the package, which shall be set forth in a clear and conspicuous manner so that the ultimate purchaser is able to read the information easily and without strain.
  - 1. The words “coated seed.”
  - 2. A statement giving the maximum amount of coating material contained within the package.
  - 3. A statement referring purchaser to the product label for additional information.

**Motion to authorize a Notice-of-Intent** to accept the new language suggested by the Seed Industry was made by Mr. Michael Hensgens. Seconded by Dr. John Russin. No opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Clonally Propagated Native Plant Certification Standards**

LDAF Staff presented the Commission members with proposed certification standards for three clonally propagated native plant species.

Dr. Carrie Knott, Coastal Plants Breeder with the LSU Ag Center, addressed the Seed Commission members in regards to these proposed standards. Dr. Knott informed the members of their attempt to model a breeding program to improve and develop plants for coastal restoration using agricultural techniques. Also, in identifying and releasing improved varieties, their wish in developing these standards is to ultimately certify the coastal restoration plants for quality and purity.

**Motion to authorize a Notice-of- Intent** to include the clonally propagated native plant certification standards with the following non-substantive changes. A definition of “Clonally Propagated Plant” to be placed in the “Definitions” section of the Standards and to strike the word “native” throughout the document. Motion to authorize was made by Dr. John Russin. Seconded by Mr. Michael Hensgens. No opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Additional Labeling Requirements Proposal for Agricultural Seed**

Mr. Travis Walker addressed the Commission in attempts to identify several current issues in seed labeling and practices. He informed the Commission of the need for standard cool tests for corn be required on the labeling, requiring that the seed label follow the seed shipment to the farmer, that blending of hold-over seed from previous years should be noted on the label by way of “crop year”, and a concern that seed that has failed germination lacks the follow through of information from the dealer to the grower. After discussion it was found that most of the issues are currently addressed in the Seed Law and Rules and Regulations. Upon request of the Commission, the Seed Programs staff will research the best implementation of the law and report back to the Commission at a later date.

#### **Approved Plant Breeder Application**

The Seed Commission reviewed and accepted an Approved Plant Breeder application and supporting documents received from Dr. Xueyan Sha with the LSU Rice Research Station.

**Motion** by Mr. Michael Hensgens, seconded by Dr. John Russin, to accept and approve the Approved Plant Breeder application from Dr. Xueyan Sha with LSU Rice Research Station. No opposition. Passed unanimously.

#### **Revision of Seed Certification Regulations**

In anticipation of several new standards being developed, particularly in the area of coastal restoration plants, a request of blanket acceptance to re-format, in the manner of re-numbering and re-lettering, of the current Seed Certification Regulations was made by LDAF Seed Programs staff.

**Motion** to accept the re-formatting of the Louisiana Seed Certification Regulations to allow for future crops being introduced for approval and certification. Motion was made by Dr. John Russin and seconded by Dr. Johnny Saichuk. Motion passed unanimously. No opposition.

#### **NO PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Michael Hensgens, seconded by Dr. John Russin. Motion was approved unanimously.

